

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 3 and 6-9 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 11 have been canceled. All of the remaining claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, amendments to eliminate numeric references are not narrowing amendments and are not amendments entered for purposes of patentability.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cameron. It appears that the Examiner also intended to reject claims 4 and 6 in view of Cameron. The Examiner compared the element 118 of Cameron to the claimed fuse replacement hindrance portion.

The element 118 of Cameron is actually a door that is provided to facilitate replacement of a fuse and not to hinder replacement of the fuse when the base is assembled to the casing. Counsel appreciates that the Examiner must interpret the claims of a patent application very broadly. It is apparent that a few clarifying changes to claim 1 would distinguish claim 1 patentably from Cameron. However, any such minor clarifying changes to claim 1 would make amended claim 1 substantially redundant of claim 7. Hence, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled. Dependent claims 3 and 6 have been amended to depend from independent claim 7.

The applicant and the assignee are pleased to note that claims 7-9 were identified as being directed to patentable subject matter. Claims 7-9 remain in the application and have been amended merely to eliminate the numeric references.

Hence, claims 7-9 still are in condition for allowance. As noted above, claims 3 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 7 and to conform to the terminology employed in claim 7. Hence, it is believed that claims 3 and 6 also are in condition for allowance.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Additionally, claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese reference that was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed with this application.

Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: November 17, 2004